Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 4 through 14 with the following amended paragraph:

The transparent insulating sleeve may be, for example, a clear fluoropolymer tube. Also, the insulating sleeve typically has an index of refraction similar to the index of refraction of the planar waveguide to enable increased amounts of light transfer from the insulating sleeve to the planar waveguide. Preferably, the index of refraction is equal to or somewhat lower than the index of refraction of the planar waveguide. The planar waveguide is typically either an acrylic plate or scattered ~~plexiglass~~ Plexiglas (acrylic glass) plate. Scattered ~~plexiglass~~ Plexiglas plate is preferably used to enable an even distribution of light to be emitted from the planar surface of the planar waveguide. To ensure an even distribution of emitted light if acrylic plate is used, the planar waveguide may include a matrix of dots whose diameters or densities of white ink increase as a function of distance from the light receiving edge of the planar waveguide.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 26 through page 9, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

The planar waveguide 16 is typically either an acrylic plate or scattered ~~plexiglass~~ Plexiglas (acrylic glass) plate. To ensure an even distribution of emitted light from planar surface 22 if acrylic plate is used, planar waveguide 16, as shown in Fig. 4, may include a matrix of dots 50 whose diameters or densities of white ink increase as a function of distance from the light receiving edge 20 of planar waveguide 16. The white ink within dots 50 forces the angle of received light waves to exceed the critical angle. Thus, the amount of scattering and emitted light may be increased by increasing the density of white ink within the dots 50, by increasing the diameter of dots 50, or by a combination of increasing both the diameter of and density of white ink within dots 50.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 5 through 12 with the following amended paragraph:

The planar waveguide 16 may act as both a waveguide and light scattering mechanism by using varying amounts of internal discrete light scattering elements to disperse light from light source 12 adjacent to edge 20 in order to evenly emit light from planar surface 22 of planar waveguide 16. Such scattering elements may include prisms, defects, gaps, channels, notches, suspended materials, and the like. Atoglas Plexiglas Elit, developed by ATOFINA Chemicals Incorporated, is a particular type of scattered ~~plexiglass~~ Plexiglas (acrylic glass) plate planar waveguide that may be used due to its internal light distribution and diffusion capabilities.